

hybridizing to a polynucleotide analyte, and a second oligonucleotide capable of hybridizing to the polynucleotide analyte, the first oligonucleotide comprising a 3' portion that is substantially complementary to the analyte and a 5' portion which does not hybridize to the analyte, wherein the second oligonucleotide hybridizes to said analyte at a location in the 3' direction from the first oligonucleotide.

A1 36. The composition of claim 1 wherein the second oligonucleotide is substantially fully hybridized to the polynucleotide analyte at the temperature where the first oligonucleotide reversibly hybridizes with the polynucleotide analyte.

37. The composition of claim 1 wherein the first oligonucleotide comprises a label.

38. The composition of claim 3 wherein the label is on the 3' portion of the first oligonucleotide.

39. The composition of claim wherein the label is on the 5' portion of the first oligonucleotide.

40. The composition of claim 1 wherein the 5' portion of the first oligonucleotide comprises about 1 to 20 oligonucleotides.

41. The composition of claim 1 wherein the 3' portion of the first oligonucleotide comprises about 10 to 40 nucleotides.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

After the title as the first paragraph of the specification, please insert:

A2 --This is a continuation of U.S. Application No.
09/608,721, filed June 30, 2000, now U.S. Patent No.
_____, which is a continuation of U.S. Application